

From: [Hatten, Charles](#)
To: [R5 ARD APB-APMS](#); [R5 ARD APB-APS](#); [R5 ARD APB-CS](#)
Cc: [R5 ARD-ATAB-AMAS](#); [R5 ARD APB-STPS](#)
Subject: FW: Heads up -- SO2 Designations -- Materials
Date: Wednesday, July 24, 2013 3:40:22 PM
Attachments: [Fact Sheet for Final SO2 Nonattainment Designations 1stRoundFinal.docx](#)
[Q&As Final SO2 Nonattainment Designations 1stRoundv1.docx](#)
[SO2 July 2013 Final Designations for2008NAAQS 7-09-13.jpg](#)
[Final Round1 SO2 Nonattainment Counties.pdf](#)

From: Drinkard, Andrea
Sent: Wednesday, July 24, 2013 3:29 PM
To: Millett, John; PADs and Alternates; Mitchell, Ken; McMichael, Nate; Cortelyou-Lee, Jan; Delp, Robert; Jones, Enesta; Bowles, Jack; Lewis, Josh
Cc: OAR Communications Staff All
Subject: RE: Heads up -- SO2 Designations -- Materials

Hi all—

To follow up on John's note, please find attached and below communications materials for the final SO2 designations. Please let us know if you have any questions or need additional information.

- Fact Sheet
- Q&A
- Map of nonattainment areas
- List of nonattainment areas

Below is the OPS approved statement and some key messages:

Statement

EPA is taking the next step in its common-sense approach to implementing the national air quality standard for sulfur dioxide (SO2). The agency, following an established Clean Air Act process, is identifying 29 areas in 16 states where air quality does not meet the 2010 health

standard for SO₂, based on monitoring data provided by the states. Taking steps to reduce sulfur dioxide pollution in these areas will improve air quality and protect public health. Sulfur dioxide can aggravate asthma and cause respiratory difficulties.

EPA will continue to work closely with our partners at the state, tribal and local levels to address the designations for other areas in separate future actions. With input from a diverse group of stakeholders, the agency has developed a comprehensive strategy that focuses resources on identifying and addressing unhealthy levels of SO₂ in areas where people are most likely to be exposed.

List of nonattainment areas:

<http://www.epa.gov/airquality/sulfurdioxide/designations/regs.html>

Additional information: <http://www.epa.gov/so2designations/>

Key Messages

- To ensure public health is protected, EPA is taking the next steps to work with states and tribes to address SO₂ air pollution in the outdoor air.
- The designations process ensures that SO₂ pollution is not above levels that the science indicates are necessary to adequately protect public health and the environment.
- EPA is moving forward to designate areas where monitors show existing violations of the new standard as “nonattainment.”
- The latest air quality monitoring data shows that action needs to be taken to reduce SO₂ pollution and ensure that public health is protected in 29 areas across the country. Designating these areas now will help continue work to reduce SO₂ emissions and improve air quality in these areas.
- Recent Clean Air Act rules will help states reduce sulfur dioxide emissions by dramatically cutting pollution both regionally and across the country. These include rules to reduce pollution from power plants.
- Exposure to SO₂ can cause a range of adverse health effects, including narrowing of the airways and increased asthma symptoms.
- The first air quality standard for SO₂ was set in 1971. Annual average SO₂ concentrations have decreased by 83 percent since 1980.
- These designations are based on the first updated standards since 1971.
- EPA’s Comprehensive Implementation Strategy outlines a commonsense approach

that focuses resources on identifying and addressing unhealthy levels of SO₂ in the rest of the country. In developing the strategy, EPA carefully considered stakeholder feedback obtained during an extensive outreach process.

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From: Millett, John

Sent: Wednesday, July 24, 2013 10:35 AM

To: PADs and Alternates; Mitchell, Ken; Drinkard, Andrea; McMichael, Nate; Cortelyou-Lee, Jan; Delp, Robert; Jones, Enesta; Bowles, Jack; Lewis, Josh

Subject: Heads up -- OAR Comm Call re: SO2 Designations -- 2 pm EDT

Hi Everyone – It looks like the letters to states notifying them of their SO₂ nonattainment status will be going tomorrow (please see the attached list). Only regions 2 and 10 do NOT have a nonattainment area in this round of designations. Questions about specific areas can be handled by your regional air divisions, who've been involved throughout the designation process.

<< File: SO2 Nonattainment Counties.pdf >>

During our weekly OAR comm call today, Jan Cortelyou and Andrea Drinkard will go over the plan, cover the background, and answer any questions.

More materials will soon be circulated. Look for an e-mail from Andrea Drinkard. Also, an agenda for the call will be going around shortly, but here are the coordinates –

2PM EDT



Ex. 6- Personal Privacy

Thanks,

John

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John Millett

Director, OAR Communications

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